

Michigan State Police, Emergency Management and Homeland Security Division
Status Update: June 18, 2008 at 4:00 p.m.

State Emergency Operations Center (SEOC)

The State Emergency Operations Center (SEOC) was activated following a series of severe storms commencing on June 6 and continuing through June 13. Daily operation of the SEOC continues today, Wednesday, June 18. Key state agencies continue to monitor the event and provide resources to meet public health and safety needs. State resources are being deployed based on local requests, availability and geographic areas. The key agencies include Agriculture; Community Health; Environmental Quality; Military and Veterans Affairs; Natural Resources; State Police; Transportation; and the MSP/EMHSD. A FEMA Region V liaison is also present in the SEOC.

The SEOC will be staffed from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. throughout the week or until needs dictate otherwise. The mission in the SEOC continues to be identifying and addressing the most critical public safety / health mission assignments and providing the necessary assistance to the declared areas.

Federal and State Agency Responses

The MDOT continues to assist in Eaton and Mason counties with repairs to road washouts and road / bridge / culvert damage assessments. In the City of Saginaw, the MDOT is providing debris removal assistance on the state trunk lines located within the city limits. In Mason County, the US-31 rebuilding project has been completed and the roadway has been reopened to traffic.

The MDA intercounty drain inspectors are in contact with the Allegan County Drain Commissioner and will be developing a plan of action for providing state assistance with drain inspection activities. The MDA also submitted a request to the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) to make an Emergency Physical Loss Declaration for the purpose of making emergency physical loss loans available to 31 Michigan counties that suffered physical damage from the tornadoes, hail and high winds that occurred from June 6-15, 2008.

The MDEQ dam safety staff inspected both the Hamlin Lake Dam and the Farwell Dam and found them to be structurally sound. They continue to monitor both dams in conjunction with local officials (and in the case of the Hamlin Lake Dam, the Michigan Dept. of Natural Resources). The MDEQ is evaluating assistance options for water sampling and laboratory analysis services in Allegan, Mason, and Ottawa counties.

The MDMVA has debris removal work crews and equipment in the City of Lansing and is assisting city crews in addressing the debris situations that pose the greatest risk to public safety and health. The MDMVA work crews are scheduled to work in the city through Wednesday evening, June 18.

The MDNR continues to monitor conditions at Ludington State Park, which reopened on the afternoon of June 16. In addition, the MDNR has provided work crews and equipment to the City of Saginaw to assist with debris removal from public roadways or areas that pose a threat to the public.

The MDOC has three work crews (app. 15-20 inmates) that will be providing debris removal assistance from public roadways or areas that pose a threat to the public in the City of Lansing through Friday, June 20. The MDOC crews will work with City of Lansing and MDMVA work crews in clearing debris in the eastern part of the city.

The MSP mission in Mason County ended on the evening of June 16. No further missions have been assigned.

The MSP/EMHSD has provided involved state agencies with a cost tracking spreadsheet and continues to compile the cost data provided by the agencies. The MSP/EMHSD continues to provide field guidance to the MDMVA work crews regarding what constitutes the most serious debris-related public safety and health risks in the city. That same technical field assistance will be extended to the MDOC work crews when they begin their assistance activities in the City of Lansing on Wednesday, June 18. On June 17, the MSP/EMHSD provided additional written guidance to affected local jurisdictions, asking that they reevaluate their public damage costs and provide final figures to the MSP/EMHSD by the close of business on Wednesday, June 18.

In addition, the MSP/EMHSD evaluated four outstanding requests for a Governor's Declaration under 1976 PA 390, as amended, and will make specific recommendations to the Governor's Office regarding these requests on Wednesday, June 18. The MSP/EMHSD also continues to address a number of media inquiries regarding the status of the storm recovery efforts.

FEMA and the USACE have been coordinating with Mason County / City of Ludington officials regarding the issue of silt and other debris clogging the Ludington public harbor and possibly impacting navigational capabilities. It has been suggested that a harbor / channel dredging project may be required to fully restore navigational capabilities. The USACE has separate emergency authority to implement such a project, absent a federal emergency / major disaster declaration, if the silt / debris negatively impacts navigation. The USACE will follow up with local officials in the coming days to determine the feasibility for a harbor / dredging project.

Governor's Declarations under 1976 PA 390, as amended:

On June 13, Governor Granholm signed five separate "state of emergency" proclamations to mobilize direct state resources to assist Allegan, Eaton, and Mason counties and the cities of Lansing and Saginaw to address immediate threats to public health and safety.

Governor's Executive Order

On June 16, Governor Granholm signed an Executive Order activating Michigan National Guard assistance for the removal of debris to protect public safety and health in the five declared areas.

Local Declarations

Eaton County (June 8)
City of Lansing (June 8)
Ottawa County (June 9)
Delta Township (June 9)
Allegan County (June 10, submitted June 11 to MSP/EMHSD)
Saginaw County (June 11)
Osceola County (June 11)
Barry County (June 12)
Lake County (June 13)
Mason County (June 13)
Wexford County (June 17)

Governor's Declarations- June 13

- Allegan County
- Eaton County
- Mason County
- City of Lansing
- City of Saginaw

Pending Requests for a Governor's Declaration

- Osceola County
 - Requested June 11, request pending
- Ottawa County
 - Requested June 13, request pending
- Lake County
 - Requested June 16, request pending
- Wexford County
 - Requested June 17, request pending
- Manistee County
 - *We have received verbal notification that Manistee County will be requesting a Governor's declaration. At this time it has not been received.*

Storm Related Fatalities

There are six confirmed fatalities resulting from the severe weather on June 6-8, 2008. Three fatalities in Ottawa County, two fatalities in Allegan County, and one fatality in Delta Township (Eaton County). There are two fatalities confirmed in Argentine Township (Genesee County) on June 9 as a result of carbon monoxide poisoning from a generator located in the home used during an electricity outage.

A vehicle submerged in the Thornapple River in Kent County on June 13 resulting in one fatality. Reports indicate the car went into the river and traveled about 200 yards downstream from where it left the road. There is a strong current in the river due to increased water levels from recent rain.